

### **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend Paragraph 32 of the specification as set forth below:

**[0032]** Fig. 8 illustrates a cross section of the hybrid riser tower 13. This illustration depicts the various common components of a hybrid riser tower: ~~umbilical~~ umbilicals **81**, foam insulation **82**, production risers **83**, injection ~~riser~~ risers **85**, and the carrier pipe structural member **84**. In order to increase the design tension limit of the hybrid riser tower, an alternative embodiment of the invention incorporates a strengthened carrier pipe structural member **84** designed to provide a higher tensile strength. In this embodiment, the carrier pipe structural member **84** can be designed to provide a portion of the maximum buoyancy force of the variable buoyancy device **12**. This portion can be a fraction of the maximum buoyancy force or it can exceed the maximum buoyancy force depending upon embodiment specific design considerations. The additional tensile strength of the carrier pipe structural member **84** provides a greater safety margin during the installation of the SCR(s), especially during the deballasting of the variable buoyancy device.